Investigations against Tehalka.com

1425. SHRISANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various agencies of the Ministry of Finance have launched investigations against Website Tehalka. com;

(b) if so, what is the nature of these investigations and how many cases have been registered against the portal; and

(c) what is the status of the investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No investigations have been launched by the investigating agencies under the Ministry of Finance against the Website Tehalka.com.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Excise duty on umbrellas

1426. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government hae levied 4 per cent excise duty on umbrellas in the Budget proposal of 2002-2003.

(b) if so, what is the projected revenue from this new proposal;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has received any request from the umbrella manufacturers and traders to remove the proposed duty;and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available, the projected revenue is of the order of Rs. 1.2 crore in the year 2002-2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the Budget 2002-2003,4 per cent excise duty was imposed on